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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,121	11/21/2003	John W. Carter		1802

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EXAMINER	
PEDDER, DENNIS H	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3612	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/23/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/719,121	Applicant(s) CARTER ET AL.	
	Examiner Dennis H. Pedder	Art Unit 3612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 47-49, 51-60, 62-114, 116-124, 126-144 and 146-172 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) (SEE ATTACHED SHEET) is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 47-49, 51-60, 62-114, 116-124, 126-144 and 146-172 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 47-49, 51-60, 62-114, 116-124, 126-144, 146-172 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant's claims are unduly multiplied (MPEP 2173.05(n)). This rejection is maintained in order to preserve applicant's right to appeal this determination as stated in the MPEP.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, conductor concealed from view by a headliner, claim 94, and said exchange or substitution achieved without the use of a tool, claim 142, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must

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be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Applicant, with regard to the conductor concealed by a headliner, and with regard to the exchange, put forth alternate embodiments, not elected and not being prosecuted in this application.

Specification

4. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: accessory component including facilitates detachment, claim 112, and without use of a tool, claim 142.

With regard to the above, applicant set forth an alternate embodiment, not being prosecuted in this application. Illustration is required of the peeling or removal of the attachment element 241 from the member 230 by use of the elected adhesive.

Election/Restrictions

5. Claims 48, 55, 57-59, 63-64, 67-68, 70-72, 74-76, 89, 91-93, 97, 100-101, 103-105, 107-109, 111, 113, 119, 121-123, 127-128, 131-132, 134-136, 138-140, 143, 150, 152-154, 157-158, 161-162, 164-166, 168-170 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention and species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 4/17/2006.

Multiplicity

6. The claims are unduly multiplied. Applicant has elected, in the response of 8/24/2006, to prosecute 30 claims, specifically: 47, 49, 52, 53, 56, 62, 73, 82-85, 90, 94, 106, 112, 114, 116-118, 120, 137, 142, 144, 146-149, 151, 167 and 172.

7. Applicant's language in the claims is interpreted as follows in light of applicant's previous responses.

47. (currently amended) A vehicle interior accessory system suitable for use in a vehicle having an interior cabin, the interior cabin having a roof and at least one of front and rear seating portions, said system comprising:
an attachment member (230), said attachment member disposed at a portion of the roof (232) of the interior cabin so as to be overhead at least one of the front or rear seating portions within the interior cabin of the vehicle and at least one of adhesively and mechanically attached thereat, the vehicle comprising one of an automobile, a truck, a van and a utility vehicle;
a vehicle interior accessory component (240);,
said vehicle interior accessory component including an attachment element (241) adapted for receipt by said attachment member;
said attachment element of said vehicle interior accessory component cooperating with said attachment member disposed at the roof portion in order to detachably

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secure said vehicle interior accessory component at the roof portion;
said attachment member comprising at least one elongated member, said at least one elongated member comprising an electrical conductor (236);
said vehicle interior accessory component provided with electrical power via said electrical conductor of said at least one elongated member; and
wherein said attachment element(241) of said vehicle interior accessory component cooperates with said attachment member (230) disposed at the roof portion in a manner that readily facilitates detachment of said vehicle interior accessory component for exchange or for substitution by another.

In as much as applicant has elected, for prosecution, the accessory of lighting component 240 and the attachment element of adhesives, and applicant has indicated that the independent claims in this application are generic to such election (April 17, 2006), the attachment element 241 is logically considered to be adhesives attaching the lighting component 240 to the track 230. Should this not be the case, there may be no generic claims in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

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invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

10. Claims 47, 49, 52-53, 56, 62, 73, 82-85, 90, 94, 106, 112, 114, 116-118, 120, 137, 142, 144, 146-149, 151, 167, and 172 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rossi in view of either Matsuno et al. or Asada et al.

The representative independent claim 47 is interpreted as follows with regard to Rossi:

47. (currently amended) A vehicle interior accessory system suitable for use in a vehicle having an interior cabin, the interior cabin having a roof and at least one of front and rear seating portions, said system comprising:

an **attachment member** (22), said attachment member disposed at a portion of the roof of the interior cabin so as to be overhead at least one of the front or rear seating portions within the interior cabin of the vehicle and at least one of adhesively and mechanically attached thereat, the vehicle comprising one of an automobile, a truck, a van and a utility vehicle;

a vehicle interior **accessory component** (58);,

said vehicle interior accessory component including an **attachment element** (bayonet pins or member 34) adapted for receipt by said **attachment member** (22);

said attachment element of said vehicle interior accessory component cooperating with said attachment member disposed at the roof portion in order to detachably secure said vehicle interior accessory component at the roof portion;

said attachment member comprising at least one **elongated member** (30), said at least

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one elongated member comprising an electrical conductor (wire within);
said vehicle interior accessory component provided with electrical power via said electrical conductor of said at least one elongated member; and
wherein said attachment element of said vehicle interior accessory component cooperates with said attachment member disposed at the roof portion in a manner that readily facilitates detachment of said vehicle interior accessory component for exchange or for substitution by another (removal of the cover 10 allows access to the bulb 58).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide the overhead light of Rossi above a front or rear seating position as taught by either Matsuno et al. or Asada et al. in order to facilitate reading of a map, for example.

As to claim 49, Rossi shows the wire 30 oriented, in sections, in substantially perpendicular directions, hence comprising at least one of transverse or longitudinal. Further this is not a patentable distinction, but common knowledge in the art.

As to claim 52, it is common knowledge in the art to strip a wire at any selected position in order to make the connection.

As to claim 53, the member 34 has a channel for the bulb base.

As to claim 62, no tools are needed to remove cover 10 and bulb 58.

As to claim 82, see the remarks for claim 52, regarding wire stripping at the connection.

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As to claim 94, concealing of wire conductors is common knowledge in the art for aesthetic and safety reasons.

Double Patenting

11. Applicant is advised that should claims 47 and 49 and 62 be found allowable, claims 112 and 114 and 142, respectively, will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to elected claims above have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

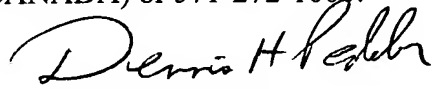
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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis H. Pedder whose telephone number is (571) 272-6667. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn D. Dayoan can be reached on (571) 272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Dennis H. Pedder
Primary Examiner
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